

Brief Summary of the Articles

E-economy development in the Central European candidate countries for EU-accession

ÁDÁM TÖRÖK

The worldwide slowdown in the development of the e-economy seems to have a transitory character. Investing heavily in this sector yields the promise of substantially accelerating the catching up process in the economic development of the candidate countries for EU accession. Technical indicators of the infocom sector speak of major differences between Central European countries, but their lag in this field behind Western Europe can be measured only in years. We predict that the level of development of the e-economy will reach the EU average by the year 2010 in the most advanced small candidate countries, including at least part of Hungary.

Crisis and model-erosion in Asia

ISTVÁN BENCZES

The present-day shaping of the system of global capitalism is bursting those structures apart that were once seen as the peculiarities of the long-admired model of the developmental state. It is a pity that the sudden increase in the supply of capital in East Asia was not followed by the development of an appropriately designed institutional infrastructure, a strengthening of regulations and an improvement of the price-mechanism. The reasons are complex: on the one hand, institutional adjustment is a time-consuming process, and on the other hand the earlier beneficiaries of the system had no interest in modifying the rules of the game, that is, to create an environment in which macro and micro financing would be accountable, prudent and transparent. The financial crisis made the deficiencies of the Asian-style development path apparent, and at the same time revealed the necessary erosion of the model of the developmental state. Therefore, the Asian countries are facing a great challenge: they need to establish the mechanisms and institutions which can ensure a stable, consistent and sustainable development of their economies. Nevertheless, the process of reorientation is not without obstacles: the much required institutional bases can be created only if the new settings are shaped according to domestic and foreign competition.

Increase of efficiency and foreign ownership in the Hungarian manufacturing industry – assessments by cross section methods

CSABA NOVÁK

We have assessed the efficiency impact of FDI on production (direct effect) and on domestic rivals (indirect effect). The usual expectation is that the appearance of foreign owners in the firm increases output via better technology, organisational skills, and access to higher quality inputs from abroad. In this paper we used simple cross section methods to evaluate the role of FDI. The simplest classical regression framework can only be used to summarise the main differences between the foreign and the domestically owned firms: we observe that first group of firms increase their efficiency faster than domestic firms, although this difference declines over time. However, it does not account for the endogeneity of foreign investment. Correcting for that with a consistent method results in revising the efficiency effect of FDI downwards and we observe that by the end of the period local firms increase their efficiency faster already than the foreign owned rivals. If we take into account the possibility of self-selection in measuring the efficiency impact of FDI we found that except for the first two years of the sample it did not look to be present.

Kecskemét, „the small-tiger” of the South-Plain and the foreign working capital-investments

ANIKÓ MARSA

Nowadays the reduction of the domestic regional differences is getting more and more important. The foreign working capital-investment can be the new means of the regional development. But the interests of the success the region has to mobilize its resources. The first part of the article presents the capital-attractive local policy and its results in the case of Kecskemét. The second part will analyse the opinions of the foreign investors and the satisfaction of their local workers and of the local residents with the foreign investments compared with the Hungarian general opinions.